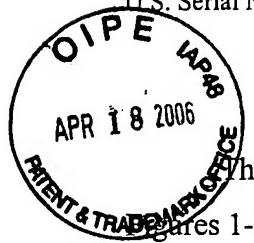


Amendment and Response
Attorney Docket No.: NEX-007
U.S. Serial No.: 10/618,091

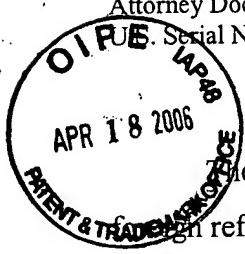
AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS



The attached sheets of drawings are Replacement Sheets for the original sheets including Figures 1-7. Sheet 5 includes changes to Fig. 5, and an Annotated Sheet 5 is included. Sheet 7 includes changes to Fig. 7B, and an Annotated Sheet 7 is included.

Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheets 1-7
 Annotated Drawing Sheets 5 and 7.

REMARKS


The Examiner indicates on page 2 of the Office action that he has not received copies of references B1-B12 and published literature C1-C5 listed with the IDS submitted to the Patent Office on January 31, 2005. These reference B1-B12 and C1-C5 were originally filed on February 11, 2004, and copies are enclosed herewith, along with copies of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form PTO-1449, also submitted February 11, 2004. We ask that the Examiner consider these references in connection with the prosecution of this application.

In the Specification

The Examiner indicates a number of typographical errors exist in Applicants' specification. Applicants have amended the text on page 6, line 29 to page 7 line 2; page 11, lines 26-31; and page 12, line 29 to page 13, line 8 to correct all but one of these errors. Applicants note that in Figure 4, end effector 20d is retaining the substrate 14 with the second surface 56 adjacent the end effector 20d and the first surface 54 exposed. Therefore, on page 11, line 18, "first surface 54" should not be amended to "second surface 56." Applicants agree with Examiner, though, that on page 11, line 29, "second surface 56" should be "first surface 54." Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for his attention to these matters.

In the Drawings

Replacement drawings have been submitted to replace the original drawings filed. Drawing sheets 5 and 7 include changes indicated as needed by the Examiner, and annotated drawing sheets 5 and 7 are included.

In Figure 5, shown on sheet 5, reference numeral "24'" was changed to "24'" and the lead line for reference numeral 64 was changed to an arrow and now points to the cut-outs portions in support member 22'.

In Figure 7B, shown on sheet 7, the lead line was changed to an arrow and now points to a wafer portion. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Applicants note that, according to amendments herewith, “a friction pad attached to an edge guide” is no longer claimed, and therefore, this objection is rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

In the Claims

Claims 1-10, 12 and 51 have been cancelled. Claims 18-50 and 53-58 were previously withdrawn. Claims 11, 13 and 52 are amended herein. New claims 59-88 have been added. Upon entry of this paper, claims 11, 13-17, 52, and 59-88 will be pending.

Support for the amendment to claim 11 can be found at least in original claims 1 and 11, in Figures 2A and 2B, and in the specification at page 9, lines 3-24. Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found at least in original claims 12 and 13. Support for the amendment to claim 52 can be found at least in original claims 51 and 52. Support for new claims 59-88 can be found in the claims as originally filed, in the drawings as originally filed, and in the specification at least from page 2, line 20 to page 5, line 6. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have herein cancelled claims 1-10, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Moreover, the terminology “mechanical communication” to which the Examiner objected has been replaced. Claim 11 recites “at least one edge guide protruding from a first surface of the support member” and “at least one friction pad attached to the first surface of the support member.” Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 now points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the Applicants regards as the invention.

Applicants believe claim 11, and all claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 12, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,095,582 to Siniaguine *et al.* (“Siniaguine”). Applicants have herein cancelled claims 1, 12, and 51, thus rendering this rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Siniaguine.

Claims 3-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0012214 by Casarotti *et al.* (“Casarotti”) in view of Siniaguine.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Siniaguine in view of the teaching in Godwin.¹

Applicants have herein cancelled claims 2-10 thus rendering this rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13, 14, and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all limitations of the base claim and

¹ It is unclear from Examiner’s remarks on page 4 of the Office action to which reference Examiner was referring, as a Godwin reference was not listed in the PTO-892. Applicants presume that Examiner was referring to one of U.S. Patents Nos. 5,080,549 and 5,324,155 to Goodwin et al., which were cited in an IDS by Applicants. Regardless, the basis for the rejection in view of Goodwin or Godwin is rendered moot because Applicants have herein cancelled claim 6.

any intervening claims. Applicants note with appreciation Examiner's conclusion that claims 13, 14, and 52 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants also believe claim 11, as amended herein, contains allowable subject matter as the only prior basis of rejection is a §112 rejection.

Applicants herein amend claim 11 to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and to better specify the structural relationship between (i) the support member and the edge guide(s) and (ii) the support member and the friction pad(s). Claim 1 has been cancelled. New claim 81-88 have been added, and depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11.

Applicants herein amend claim 13 to include all the limitations of base claim 12, and cancel claim 12. Claim 14 remains dependent from claim 13. New claims 59-64 have been added, and depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 13.

Applicants herein amend claim 52 to include all the limitations of base claim 51, and cancel claim 51. New claims 71-80 have been added, and depend either directly or indirectly from claim 52.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 11, 13, and 52, and all claims dependent therefrom, are allowable as rewritten. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal the basis of objection, and ask that claims 11, 13, 14, 52, 59-64, and 77-88 advance to allowance in due course.

Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation Examiner's conclusion that claims 15-17 are allowable. No changes have been made to claims 15-17. New claims 65-70 have been added, and depend either directly or indirectly from allowed base claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-17 and 65-70 are allowable, and respectfully request that these claims advance to allowance in due course.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and request early favorable action. If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview

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would expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is welcome to contact Applicants' agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott K. Witonsky
Agent for Applicant
Proskauer Rose LLP
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110-2600

Date: April 14, 2006
Reg. No. 56,471

Tel. No.: (617) 526-9717
Fax No.: (617) 526-9899

COPY

NEX-007 (8783/9)

The "RECEIVED" stamp of the Patent Office imprinted hereon acknowledges the filing of:

Transmittal Form (1 pg.); Fee Transmittal Form (1 pg.); Supplemental Application Data Sheet (3 pgs.); Copy of the Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application (2 pgs.); Copy of executed Declaration and Power of Attorney (3 pgs.); Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs.); Form PTO-1449 (10 pgs.); Copies of IDS Citations (B1-B12; C1-C5); Check in the amount of \$1,007.00; and this return receipt postcard, all mailed under Certificate of First Class Mailing.

Name of Applicant: Klein et al.

Intf. or Serial Number: 10/618,091

Atty: JACapraro/SKWitonsky

Date: February 11, 2004

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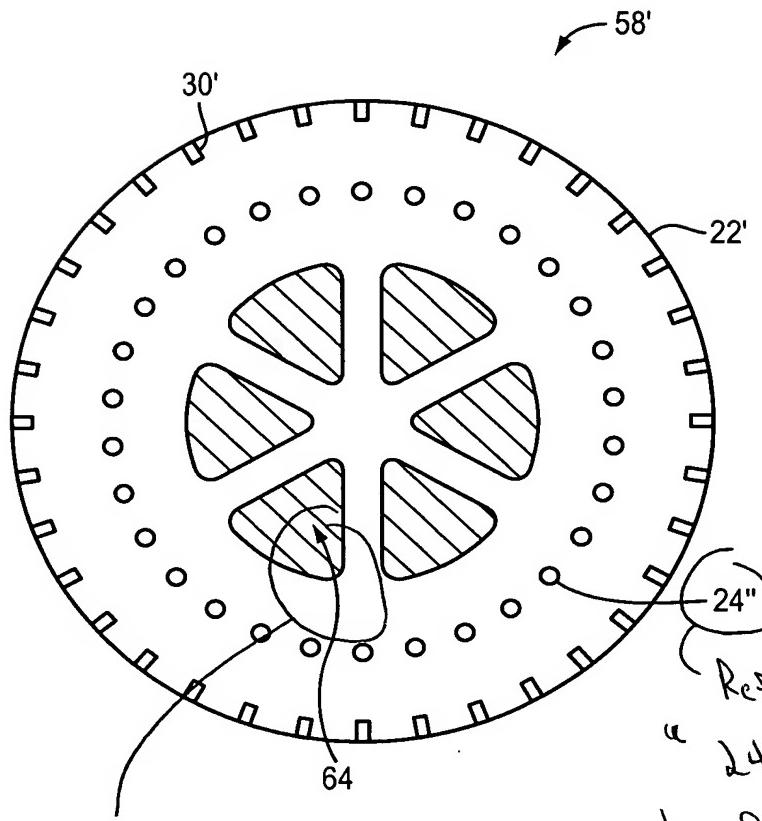


FIG. 5

Lead line
for 64 was
changed to an
arrow and now
denotes cut-out
portions.

Reference numeral
“24” was changed
to Reference
numeral “24”.

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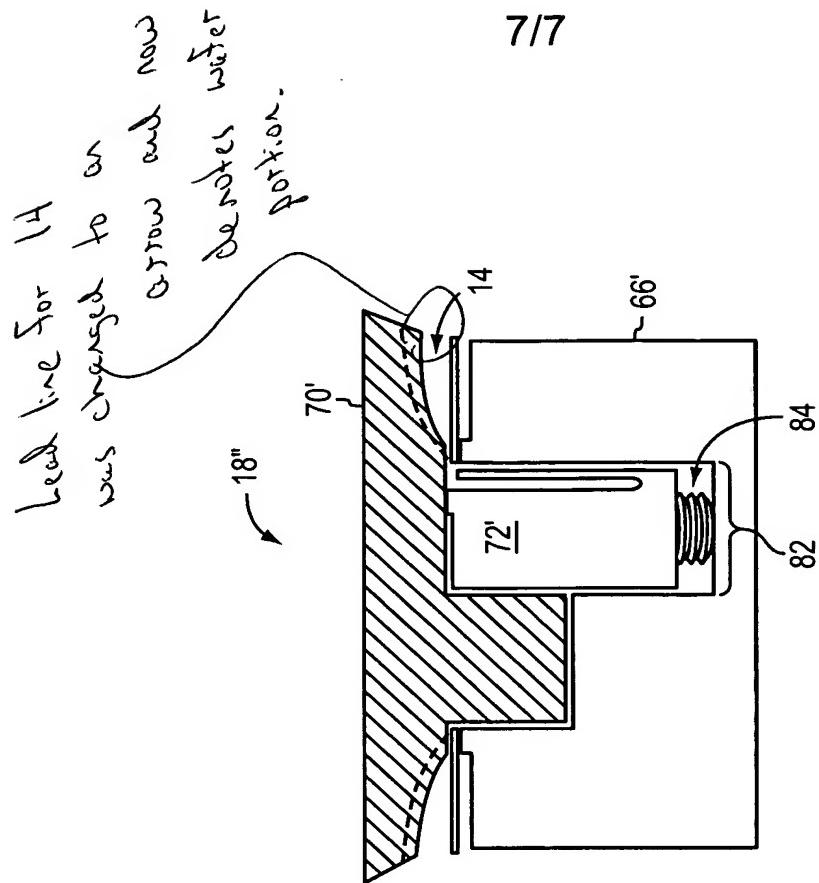


FIG. 7B

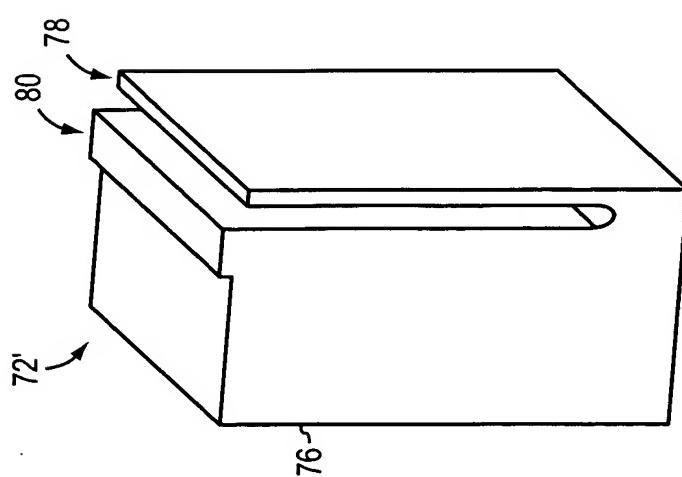


FIG. 7A